AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method for diagnosing a predisposition for accelerated autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease in a human subject comprising the steps of obtaining a biological sample containing nucleic acid from said subject, and detecting in said nucleic acid the presence of a single nucleotide polymorphism in the *ENOS* gene sequence, or the complement thereof.

2. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1 wherein said nucleic acid is DNA, cDNA, RNA or mRNA.

3. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to ~~any of claims 1 or 2~~claim 1, wherein said single nucleotide polymorphism corresponds to the Glu 298 Asp polymorphism of the *ENOS* gene.

4. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to ~~any of the claims 1-3~~claim 1, wherein said detection is accomplished by sequencing, mini sequencing, hybridization, restriction fragment analysis, oligonucleotide ligation assay or allele specific PCR.

5. (Original) An isolated polynucleotide comprising 10 contiguous nucleotides of the *ENOS* gene sequence or the complement thereof, and containing at least one single nucleotide polymorphism, wherein said single nucleotide polymorphism is associated with a predisposition for accelerated autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease.

6. (Currently amended) ~~An~~ The isolated polynucleotide according to claim 5 wherein said single nucleotide polymorphism corresponds to the Glu 298 Asp polymorphism of the *ENOS* gene.

7. (Currently amended) ~~Use of~~A method of using a single nucleotide polymorphism of the *ENOS* gene sequence, or the complement thereof, for diagnosing accelerated autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease in a human subject.

8. (Currently amended) ~~Use of a single nucleotide polymorphism according~~The method according to claim 7, wherein said single nucleotide polymorphism corresponds to the Glu 298 Asp polymorphism of the *ENOS* gene.

9. (Original) A diagnostic kit comprising at least one isolated polynucleotide of at least 10 contiguous nucleotides of the *ENOS* gene sequence or the complement thereof, containing at least one single nucleotide polymorphism, wherein said single nucleotide polymorphism is associated with a predisposition for accelerated autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease; suitable reagents; and instructions for using said polynucleotide for detecting the presence of said single nucleotide polymorphism in a biological sample containing said nucleic acid.

10. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The diagnostic kit according to claim 9 wherein said single nucleotide polymorphism corresponds to the Glu 298 Asp polymorphism of the *ENOS* gene.

11. (Currently amended) A method for treatment of a human subject predisposed to develop accelerated autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease comprising the steps of determining the predisposition of said subject by carrying out the method of ~~any of claims 1-4~~claim 1, and administrating at least one NO-enhancing compound in said subject in need of said treatment.

12. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 11, wherein said treatment counteracts the effect of said detected single nucleotide polymorphism.

13. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to ~~any of claims 11-12~~claim 11 wherein said NO-enhancing compound comprises an effective amount of L-arginine, a NO donor or a mixture thereof.

14. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 13 wherein said NO donor is moisidomine.

15. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to ~~any of claims 11-13~~claim 13 wherein said effective amount of said L-arginine, NO donor or a mixture thereof is administered in a pharmaceutically acceptable formulation.

16. (Original) Pharmaceutical composition comprising L-arginine, a NO donor or a mixture thereof and a suitable excipient for treating predisposition to accelerated ADPKD in a human subject.

17. (Currently amended) ~~Use of~~A method of using a NO-enhancing compound in the preparation of a medicament for treating predisposition to accelerated ADPKD in a human subject.

18. (Currently amended) ~~Use of~~A method of using L-arginine in the preparation of a medicament for treating predisposition to accelerated ADPKD in a human subject.

19. (Currently amended) ~~Use of~~A method of using a NO donor in the preparation of a medicament for treating predisposition to accelerated ADPKD in a human subject.